

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4496

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

AP.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, PK, IN, BG

SUBJ: REPATRIATION OF PAKISTANI PRISONERS OF WAR COMPLETED

1. REPATRIATION OF ALL PAKISTANI POWS AND CIVILIAN
DETAINEES WAS COMPLETED APRIL 30 WHEN FINAL CONTINGENT
CROSSED BORDER AT WAGAH. LAST PERSONS TO CROSS INTO
PAKISTAN WERE LT. GENERAL NIAZI, FORMER COMMANDER OF
PAK FORCES IN EAST WING WHO SIGNED DECEMBER 1971 SURRENDER
DOCUMENT, AND HIS THREE DIVISIONAL COMMANDERS.

2. ACCORDING PAK FIGURES, TOTAL OF 89,981 MILITARY AND
CIVILIAN PRISONERS HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED SINCE BEGINNING
OF EXCHANGES ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1973. THIS IS IN ADDITION
THOSE REPATRIATED EARLIER, INCLUDING NUMBER OF SICK AND
WOUNDED PLUS THOSE CAPTURED IN 1971 FIGHTING ON
WESTERN FRONT. GOP HAS DECLARED MAY 3 AS

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"THANKSGIVING DAY" HOLIDAY TO CELEBRATE THEIR RETURN.

3. COMMENT: COMPLETION OF POW REPATRIATION BRINGS TO CLOSE SECOND AND, TO PAKS, INFINITELY MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE THREE-WAY EXCHANGE UNDER 1973 DELHI AGREEMENT. ONLY REMAINING UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN POPULATION EXCHANGE IS TRANSFER TO PAKISTAN OF LAST NON-BENGALEES QUALIFYING UNDER FIRST THREE DELHI AGREEMENT CATEGORIES PLUS THE 25,000 HARDSHIP CASES.

4. RETURN OF LAST POWS WILL RAISE CERTAIN QUESTIONS FOR GOP: WHAT TO DO WITH THE ALLEGED WAR CRIMINALS AMONG THEM IF, AS ANTICIPATED, BDG FURNISHES EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM; HOW TO HANDLE GENERAL NIAZI, WHOM MANY HOLD LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MILITARY DEBACLE AND "PREMATURE" SURRENDER IN EAST; WHICH ONES TO RETURN TO ACTIVE DUTY AND WHICH TO PENSION OFF; WHAT TO DO ABOUT GOI CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF THEIR FOOD AND LODGING DURING CAPTIVITY? FOR PRESENT, HOWEVER, MOST PAKS ARE UNCONCERNED WITH QUESTIONS AND ARE CONTENT SIMPLY TO CELEBRATE RETURN OF THEIR SOLDIERS. BYROADE

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